

Whatever.

What about That?

In Luke 9:61, we see another fan who wants to be a follower. “Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family”

This guy, like the others are saying, I want to follow you but just not at this moment. And according to the culture at the time, the fair well party could last weeks! And Jesus seems almost annoyed that he would make such a request.

Jesus said, “No one who puts his hands to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62)

Jesus sees where this guy’s heart is. Like the others that we have studied, he wants to follow Jesus just not with everything he has. In other words, He’s not willing to go all in.

I read about a strange baptism practice that was allowed by the church when the Knights Of Templar would be baptized. They would be baptized with their swords but wouldn’t take it under with them. Instead they would hold it up over the water while the rest of them were immersed. It was the knights’ way of saying, “You can have control of me but you can’t have this.” How I use my sword is not part of the deal.

If this was still the practice today, we may not hold a sword, but my guess is that many of us would hold up our wallet, career, hunting, sports, our children, you fill in the blank.

- Many fans say, “I will follow. Anything and everything I have, I give to you.” But Jesus points to what you’re hiding behind your back and he says, “what about that?”

- For the rich young ruler it was his stuff, for Nicodemus it was his religious reputation, and for this guy it seems to be his family relationships that are holding him back.
 - Jesus points to what we most value and says, “What about that?”
- Jesus is saying what about your entertainment choices, what about your money? What about your time? To the stay at home mother whose life revolves around her kids? Ouch!!
 - There is a great Old Testament story that illustrates the kind of commitment Jesus is looking for. Look at 1 Kings 19. Elijah was told by God to pick Elisha as his replacement. Elisha is in the field plowing with his 12 yoke of oxen. This says that Elisha was very wealthy.
 - Elijah said, “Come and follow me.” We see that Elisha responded by slaughtering the oxen, burned his plows and had a big block party. He wanted to give his full attention to the plow that God had given him, so he burned all of his old ones. He provided no place to return.
- The reason Jesus is so adamant about followers surrendering everything is because the reality is; the one thing we are most reluctant to give up is the one thing that has the most potential to become a substitute for him.
- To put it simply, we are afraid of what we will lose. Jim Elliot, the famous missionary who gave his life to try to reach the Auca Indians of Ecuador, once put it this way: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”
 - Until you really go all in with Jesus, you will never know the joy and satisfaction that finally comes when we go all in.

- I've discovered the most common reason for people to not go all in is, they want to get their life together first. That sounds noble but, he wants you to say yes today and he will lead you out of where you are now.
- Most phones have a GPS on them. When you get lost, or I should say when I get lost, I can type in my current location and the question on the screen comes up: Directions from current location? In other words, do you want to start from where you are? Then it begins to calculate my route, not from where I started, but from where I am currently located.
- When Jesus invites you to follow him he wants you to start from your current location. You don't have to go back to where you started. He wants you to start from right here right now!!
- 2 Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."